IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Roger R. Lesieur et al — Docket No.: C-2373 Cont.
Serial No.: Continuation of 09/470,483 — Group: 1764
Filed: Concurrently herewith — Examiner: N. Priesch
For: "Method for Desulfurizing Gasoline or Diesel Fuel for Use in a Fuel Cell Power Plant"

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:
Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before "Technical Field", please insert --This is a continuation of co-pending USSN 09/470,483, filed December 22, 1999.--.

On page 4, after --Disclosure of the Invention--, please rewrite the following paragraph as follows:

"This invention relates to an improved method for processing a gasoline, diesel, or other hydrocarbon fuel stream over an extended period of time, which method is operable to remove substantially all of the sulfur present in the fuel stream. Examples of gaseous hydrocarbon fuels which can be desulfurized in accordance with this invention include methane, ethane, propane and butane."

Please rewrite the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 as follows:

"We have discovered that the presence of oxygenates in the gasoline, like MTBE (methyl-tertiary-butyl ether, i.e., $(CH_3)_3COCH_3$), or ethanol, for example, prevent rapid deactivation of the nickel catalytic adsorption of organic sulfur compounds from the fuel stream. Ethanol could be an appropriate solution to this problem since it is non-toxic, is not a carcinogen, and is relatively inexpensive and readily available in large